

Coins

It's the hole truth... and nothing but

By Roger Boye

DRILLING HOLES in coins may help to make beautiful bracelets and other jewelry, but holed coins are strictly a disappointment to coin collectors.

A reader from Galesburg asks about the value of a holed 1850 U. S. large cent which, she says, is in very fine condition. The reader's great-grandfather wore the coin on a watch chain.

Unfortunately, the value of her ancestor's cent is much less because of the hole. An 1850 large cent sells for about \$10 in very fine condition. With a hole, this same coin would sell for \$5 or less. Many numismatists

won't collect coins with holes, and dealers find them hard to sell, unless the coin has a rare date.

Not only holes, but any smudge, fingerprint, nick, or scratch makes a coin less desirable to collectors.

OTHER questions from readers:

● Q.—How much is a \$100 gold certificate worth? I have one with a 1928 date. — K. H.

A.—The series 1928 gold certificate [paper money] was made from 1928 until 1933 in denominations from \$10 to \$100,000, altho only the \$10, \$20, \$50, and \$100 denominations were generally circulated. The bills were issued just before the Depres-

sion and thus saw heavy circulation. Many persons who may have wanted to save them for a collection were forced to sell or spend them.

A \$100 gold certificate of 1928 series sells for about \$150 in "very fine" condition to about \$300 in uncirculated condition.

In 1933 it was ordered that all gold certificates be turned in to the government. [The United States went off the gold standard in 1933.] This restriction against holding gold certificates was removed in 1964.

● Q.—I am trying to check a huge collection left to me by my husband, who died in 1964. It contains gold coins,

trade dollars, about a million pennies, and on and on. What has me stumped are the Confederate bills issued during the Civil War. My husband prized them highly. Is there a book on Confederate bills I could buy? I need help.—W. M.

A.—Two books you might want to check are "Confederate and Southern State Currency" by Grover C. Criswell Jr. and "Confederate States of America Paper Money" by Arlie R. Slabach.

QUESTIONS about coins and collecting? Send them to me, in care of Room 414, Chicago Tribune, 435 N. Michigan Av., Chicago, Ill. 60611. But, please, do not send coins.